

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A roll for applying a sizing composition to a fan of one or more fibers, comprising:

a shaft having a curved central axis; and,

a sleeve covering at least a portion of said shaft, said sleeve being rotatable relative to said shaft;

wherein each fiber of said fan of one or more fibers contacts said sleeve at an axial location of said sleeve, and wherein each fiber of said fan of one or more fibers lies substantially in a plane perpendicular to said curved central axis of said shaft at said axial location; and

a gathering shoe positioned below said roll for gathering said fan of fibers into a strand.

2. (Original) The roll of claim 1, wherein said shaft is fixed at one end thereof, and wherein said sleeve is adapted to be connected to a drive device to rotate said sleeve relative to said shaft.

3. (Original) The roll of claim 1, wherein said sleeve is constructed from an elastomer material.

4. (Original) The roll of claim 3, wherein said sleeve is constructed from one material selected from the group comprising neoprene, natural rubber, silicone rubber and synthetic rubber.

5. (Original) The roll of claim 1, wherein said curved central axis includes an arcuate portion thereof, said arcuate portion having a radius defining a focal point spaced from said curved central axis, wherein each fiber of said fan of one or more fibers moves over said roll in a direction substantially towards said focal point.

6. (Original) The roll of claim 1, wherein said sleeve rotates about said curved central axis of said shaft.

7. (Original) The roll of claim 1, wherein said shaft includes an arcuate center portion, a first linear end portion extending from a first end of said arcuate center portion and a second linear end portion extending from a second end of said arcuate center portion.

8. (Original) The roll of claim 7, wherein said sleeve covers all of said arcuate center portion of said shaft, and wherein said sleeve covers at least a portion of each of said first and second end portions of said shaft.

9. (Currently Amended) The roll of claim 1, further comprising at least one bushing interposed between [[of]] said sleeve and said shaft, wherein said bushing is in sliding rotational relationship with said shaft, and wherein said bushing is affixed to said sleeve such that said bushing rotates with said sleeve around said shaft.

10. (Original) The roll of claim 9, wherein a first end of said bushing is affixed to said sleeve, and wherein a second end of said bushing is affixed to a drive device for effecting rotation of said sleeve about said shaft.